

HOUSE BILL 3795

By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58,
Chapter 7, Part 1, relative to state veterans'
homes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-7-102, is amended by deleting subsection (b) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(b) The board shall consist of fourteen (14) members. The commissioner of veterans' affairs and the commissioner of health shall be ex officio, voting members of the board. A commissioner may designate a staff member to attend meetings of the board or its committees and to exercise the commissioner's right to vote in the commissioner's absence. Such designation shall be made in writing to the chair of the board. The remaining twelve (12) members shall be appointed by the governor. At least three (3) members shall be appointed from each of the three (3) grand divisions of the state. All appointments shall be subject to review by the joint select committee on veterans' affairs of the general assembly. Initial appointments to the board shall be for one (1), two (2) and three (3) years respectively. Thereafter, all appointed members shall serve three-year terms. Each member must be a citizen of the state. One (1) member shall be a nursing home administrator at the time of such member's appointment and shall be experienced in the financial operations of nursing homes. One (1) member shall have practical clinical experience in nursing homes. One (1) member shall have experience in multi-facility management of nursing homes. The remaining members shall be honorably discharged veterans of the United States armed forces. Veteran members shall be appointed from nationally chartered service organizations which have departments in Tennessee. The board shall be composed of members representing different organizations as well as different branches of the armed forces.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-7-102, is further amended by adding a new subsection thereto, as follows:

(e) Appointed members of the board may be removed for cause by the governor.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-7-103, is amended by adding the following new subdivisions thereto:

() The authority to provide continuity, predictability and stability in the operation of state veterans' nursing homes;

() The authority to provide guidance to future administrators at state veterans' nursing homes based upon the collective institutional memory of the Tennessee state veterans' homes board;

() The authority to ensure the highest quality of care is provided at veterans' nursing homes and the financial status of the homes is maintained on a sound basis;

() The authority to notify members of the general assembly and appropriate persons in the executive branch of potential problems in state veterans' nursing homes;

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 7, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 58-7-115. Before January 1, 2009, and each January 1 thereafter, the Tennessee state veterans' homes board shall prepare a report on issues and recommendations to improve state veterans' homes. Such reports shall be delivered to the commissioner of veterans' affairs, the governor, members of the joint select committee of veterans' affairs, and to each member of the house and senate state and local government committees.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.